

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS COMMITTEE.

Meeting, 1st March, 1939.

Present :

COUNCILLOR SOULSBY (Chairman).

COUNCILLORS MRS. DOWNER, GRAVES, MRS. GREENHEAD, MONGOR, NICHOLS, OGDEN, PRATT,
SMART and STRINGER.

MESSRS. H. PANTON, M. SULLIVAN, W. R. FORD and A. N. HARTLEY.

MRS. A. E. WETZEL.

THE CLERK, ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR, AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS OFFICER
and CHIEF OFFICER OF THE FIRE BRIGADE.

1. Minutes.

The minutes of the last ordinary and special meetings of the Committee held on the 1st and 15th February, 1939, respectively, having been circulated, were taken as read, and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as correct.

2. Accounts.

It was RESOLVED :

That accounts amounting to £198 14s. 6d., including amounts of £41 18s. 7d. to Joseph Gough (Builders), Ltd., and £18 14s. 3d. to Taylor Woodrow Construction, Ltd., in accordance with Certificate Nos. 416/6 and 417/3, respectively, issued by the Engineer and Surveyor, both in respect of final payment re A.R.P. trenches, be forwarded to the Finance Committee for payment, subject to verification by the Chairman.

3. Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer submitted a report containing a cash statement of receipts and payments, and statements of income and expenditure on Air Raid General Precautions and Air Raid Fire Precautions for the period 1st April, 1938, to 15th February, 1939, a copy of which is filed on pages 311-313, file 29, Reports of Officers.

(Councillor Pratt entered the meeting at this point.)

4. Apology.

An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Dr. Wiggins.

(Councillor Sutcliffe entered the meeting at this point.)

5. Hayes & District Trades Council.

The Committee further considered, on reference from the Council, the application of the above Council to be represented on this Committee.

It was moved by Councillor Sutcliffe and seconded by Councillor Mongor :

That a member of the Hayes & District Trades Council be appointed as a co-opted member of this Committee.

It was moved by the Chairman and seconded by Councillor Nichols as an amendment :

That this Committee agree with the principle of receiving the utmost co-operation with regard to Air Raid Precautions from organised bodies within this area, and refer the question of future representation upon this Committee to the Annual Meeting of the Council.

The amendment, upon being put to the meeting, was declared carried, 9 voting in favour and 3 against.

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Whereupon it was RESOLVED :

That this Committee agree with the principle of receiving the utmost co-operation with regard to Air Raid Precautions from organised bodies within this area, and refer the question of future representation upon this Committee to the Annual Meeting of the Council.

The voting was as follows :—

In favour : Councillors Mrs. Downer, Nichols, Ogden, Pratt, Smart, and Soulsby ; Messrs. Ford, Hartley and Sullivan.

Against : Councillors Mrs. Greenhead, Mongor, and Sutcliffe.

Not voting : Mr. Panton.

(Councillor Graves left the meeting at this point.)

6. Purchase of Towing Vehicle.

The Committee further considered, on reference from the Council, the question of the purchase of a towing vehicle for the Auxiliary Fire Service, arising from a report by the Sub-Committee appointed to view a vehicle offered for sale, vide item 21, page 926, of the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 1st February, 1939.

In this connection, and arising from item 17, page 819, of the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held 4th January, 1939, the Clerk reported that the Home Office had approved for grant purposes the purchase of a further second-hand vehicle at a cost up to £55.

Mr. Panton stated that from time to time he was aware of second-hand vehicles, which had been offered for sale to The Gramophone Company.

It was moved by Councillor Mongor :

That advertisements be issued in the local press inviting quotations for the supply of suitable vehicles, and that the sub-committee, consisting of Councillors Nichols and Pratt and Mr. Panton, inspect the same.

The motion was not seconded.

It was then RESOLVED :

That the sub-committee consisting of Councillors Nichols and Pratt and Mr. Panton inspect the vehicles mentioned by Mr. Panton, and that such sub-committee be given power to purchase two suitable vehicles up to the cost approved by the Home Office.

(Mrs. Wetzel entered the meeting during the foregoing item.)

7. Underground Shelter.

Arising from item 9 (b) of the minutes of the special meeting of the Committee held 15th February, 1939, the Chairman submitted a report presented to the Finsbury Borough Council dealing with the construction of underground shelters, which had been prepared by a firm of Architects, and stated that further copies of this report could be obtained for 2s. 6d. each plus postage.

The Engineer and Surveyor referred to a paper read before the Institution of Structural Engineers by Mr. Helsby, the Consulting Engineer, who had visited the underground shelters constructed in Barcelona.

It was moved by Councillor Sutcliffe and seconded by Councillor Mongor :

That the Engineer and Surveyor be instructed to prepare sketch plans for an underground car park which could be used as a bomb proof shelter, and also sketch plans for bomb proof shelters only, and to investigate suitable sites.

It was moved by the Chairman and seconded by Councillor Smart as an amendment :

That this Committee agree in principle to providing complete protection against high explosive bombs, and that the Engineer and Surveyor and A.R.P. Officer be instructed to obtain copies of the report to the Finsbury Borough Council and of the paper submitted by Mr. Helsby, if possible, and any further data available, for circulation to the members of the Committee ; further, that the matter be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

The amendment, upon being put to the meeting, was declared carried, 8 voting in favour and 3 against.

Whereupon it was RESOLVED:

That this Committee agree in principle to providing complete protection against high explosive bombs, and that the Engineer and Surveyor and A.R.P. Officer be instructed to obtain copies of the report to the Finsbury Borough Council and of the paper submitted by Mr. Helsby, if possible, and any further data available, for circulation to the members of the Committee; further, that the matter be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

(Councillor Stringer entered the meeting during the foregoing item. Councillors Mrs. Greenhead and Nichols left the meeting at this point.)

8. St. John Ambulance Brigade and British Red Cross Society.

Arising from item 24 of the minutes of the special meeting of the Committee held 15th February, 1939, it was RESOLVED:

That the Entertainments Committee of the County Council be asked to receive a deputation consisting of the Chairman, Councillor Sutcliffe and Mrs. Wetzel with a view to the above associations participating in the proceeds of Sunday Entertainments under the Sunday Entertainments Act, 1932.

(Councillors Mongor and Sutcliffe left the meeting at this point.)

9. Steel Shelters.

Arising from item 10 of the minutes of the special meeting of the Committee held 15th February, 1939, it was RESOLVED:

That as it is anticipated that steel shelters will be issued to this district, all arrangements for giving effect to Home Office Circular No. 28/1939 be left in the hands of the Chairman and appropriate officials with power to act.

10. Materials Purchased During The Crisis.

It was RESOLVED:

That the County Council be asked for their views as to whether or not the various materials other than corrugated iron and timber for trenches, purchased during the crisis, such as that for adaptation of first aid posts, cleansing stations, etc., should be disposed of.

11. Messrs. Taylor Woodrow Construction, Ltd.

The Engineer and Surveyor reported that he had received a letter from the above Company, offering the services of their men for repair, reconstruction and demolition squads.

It was RESOLVED:

That the Company be thanked for their offer, and informed that the same will be borne in mind when this part of the scheme is dealt with.

12. Conference With Public Utility Undertakings.

Arising from item 9 (c) of the minutes of the special meeting of the Committee held 15th February, 1939, the Chairman reported verbally on a conference which had been held on 1st March with representatives of the Public Utility Undertakings in the district on the question of co-ordination which he had attended in company with the appropriate officials.

It was RESOLVED:

That the replies from the Public Utility Undertakings to the various questions raised be forwarded to the County Council when received, and that the Chairman and appropriate officials report on the matter to the next meeting.

13. Report of Chief Officer of Fire Brigade.

The Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade submitted a report, a copy of which is filed on pages 314-315, file 29, Reports of Officers.

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14. Equipment For Auxiliary Fire Service.

The Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade reported details of the equipment received from the Home Office since the last meeting (item 1 of his report).

15. Fire Hydrants.

The Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade reported that the A.R.P. Officer had received complaints from Wardens that they were unable to discover the positions of fire hydrants, and he reported on the position.

It was RESOLVED :

That a schedule showing the positions of all fire hydrants be circulated to the Wardens.

16. A.R.P. Exercise.

The Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade reported on an A.R.P. exercise which was carried out on the 15th February on the Grange Estate.

Arising therefrom it was RESOLVED :

That the Divisional Wardens be invited to discuss with the Chief Officer at the Fire Station the results of any future exercises carried out.

17. Chief and Second Officers' Rest Day.

The Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade reported that in view of the recent increase in salary granted to the Second Officer and himself, they had discontinued drawing a day's pay in lieu of their rest day.

18. A.R.P. Officer's Report.

The A.R.P. Officer submitted a report, a copy of which is filed on pages 316-321, file 29, Reports of Officers.

19. Steel Shelters.

The A.R.P. Officer reported that in accordance with paragraph 12 of Home Office Circular No. 28/1939, the Clerk had asked for this Council to be supplied with ten steel shelters for demonstration purposes.

Arising therefrom, your Committee RECOMMEND :

- (a) **That the ten demonstration shelters be erected on the following sites when received, subject to such sites being considered suitable, and that the appropriate authorities and the Chairmen of the appropriate committees in the case of sites owned by the Council be asked for their approval to the shelters being erected on the sites under their jurisdiction :—**

**Island Site, Bungalows, Kingsway.
Town Hall Gardens.
Recreation Ground, Yeading Lane.
Playing Field, Warren Park.
Townfield Square.
Botwell Recreation Ground.
Island Site, Station Road, N. Harlington.
North Side of Cranford Park.
West End Lane, Harlington.
Island Site, Oxford Avenue, Harlington.**

- (b) **That the question of approaching the Home Office for a double size steel shelter for use of wardens on duty be left in abeyance for the time being.**

(Councillors Mrs. Greenhead, Mongor and Sutcliffe returned to the meeting during the foregoing item.)

20. Superannuation—A.R.P. Department Staff.

The A.R.P. Officer requested the Committee to consider the question of designating for superannuation purposes the posts in his department, and pointed out that if these posts were designated under the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922, the rate of contribution would be 5 per cent., whereas under the 1937 Act it would be 6 per cent.

The Clerk submitted a letter from the County Accountant, drawing attention to page 4 of the memorandum issued in conjunction with the Approval of Expenditure Provisional Regulations, 1938, which provided that superannuation contributions would rank for grant where the salary was also approved for grant purposes.

It was RESOLVED :

- (a) That the General Purposes Committee be asked to recommend that the following posts in the A.R.P. department be designated for superannuation purposes and that application be made to the Superannuation Joint Committee for approval to the designation of the posts and to the persons mentioned occupying such posts :—

A.R.P. Officer	...	...	Capt. W. S. Bagnall.
General Clerk	...	...	Miss M. Horton.
General Clerk	...	...	Miss M. O. Jacob.
Storekeeper	...	...	Mr. H. King.

- (b) That the Clerk be instructed to communicate forthwith with the Clerk of the Superannuation Joint Committee with a view to obtaining approval to the posts under the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922.

21. Local A.R.P. Exercise.

Arising from item 31 of the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held 1st February, 1939, the A.R.P. Officer submitted a "Producer's Table" showing the incidents arranged for the exercise for the information of the Committee.

Arising therefrom it was RESOLVED :

That the Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade make immediate representations to the Home Office for the issue of adapters for the trailer pumps to connect to hydrants.

22. Report Centre.

Arising from item 10, page 817, of the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held 4th January, 1939, the A.R.P. Officer submitted a proposed arrangement of the Report Centre Staffs in reliefs, a copy of which is filed on page 319, file 29, Reports of Officers.

The A.R.P. Officer reported that it would be necessary to select and train A.R.P. Volunteers from members of the public in Report Centre duties when the work in hand permitted this being done.

Your Committee RECOMMEND:

That the Town Hall premises, telephones, etc., be made available for this training when required.

(Councillors Pratt and Smart left the meeting during the foregoing item.)

23. Circulars, Memoranda, etc.

The A.R.P. Officer submitted various circulars, memoranda, etc., which had been or were being circulated to the members of the Committee.

Arising therefrom it was RESOLVED :

That the Engineer and Surveyor be instructed to submit plans of depots to the County Council in accordance with the instructions given in Circular No. 15/1939 received from the County Council.

(Councillors Ogden and Stringer left the meeting at this point.)

24. Whole Time Volunteers.

Arising from item 17 (b) of the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Committee held 15th February, 1939, the A.R.P. Officer stated that the Lord Privy Seal had now made a statement to the effect that whole-time men and women volunteers would be paid £3 per week and £ per week respectively, and he also stated that he had received forms for these volunteers from the County Council.

It was RESOLVED :

That the A.R.P. Officer be instructed to recommence the enrolment of whole-time A.R.P. volunteers, and to make representations to the Home Office to the effect that the Committee do not agree with the difference in wages to be paid to men and women volunteers.

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25. Enrolment of A.R.P. Volunteers.

The A.R.P. Officer reported that the number of volunteers on the Council's books was as follows :—

(a) GENERAL SCHEME.	On 26/1/39.	On 23/2/39.
No. of enrolments completed	1,288	1,376
No. of applicants who have not yet returned enrolment forms	155	152
Total	1,443	1,528
 (b) EMERGENCY FIRE BRIGADE SCHEME.		
No. of enrolments completed	168	181
No. of applicants who have not yet returned enrolment forms	74	72
Total	242	253

Your Committee RECOMMEND:

That a final letter be sent to those applicants who have not yet returned enrolment forms, stating that unless such forms are returned within a reasonable time they will be struck off the books.

26. Wardens Meeting.

The A.R.P. Officer submitted the minutes of a Wardens meeting held at the Town Hall on the 23rd February, 1939, a copy of which is filed on pages 320 to 321, file 29, Reports of Officers.

Arising therefrom, it was moved and seconded :

That the County Council be approached with a view to obtaining a grant towards the proposed dance to be organised by the Wardens.

The motion, upon being put to the meeting, was declared not carried, 4 voting in favour and 6 against.

27. Evacuation.

Arising from item 21 of the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Committee held 15th February, 1938, the Clerk submitted a letter dated 16th February, 1939, from Lt.-Col. J. J. Llewellyn, M.P., in connection with the above.

The Clerk reported that 7 of the 10 local authorities in West Middlesex with whom he had communicated were prepared to send delegates to the proposed conference.

It was RESOLVED :

That the Chairman and the Clerk be authorised to convene the conference, and that Councillors Mrs. Downer, Graves, Mrs. Greenhead, Mongor, Nichols, Smart and Soulsby be appointed the Council's representatives.

28. Conversion of Wash Down at Fire Station.

Arising from item 7 of the minutes of the meeting of the Fire Brigade Sub-Committee held 23rd September, 1938, the Clerk reported that the Home Office had approved for grant purposes the expenditure of £66 in connection with the above.

29. Disposal of Surplus Timber.

Arising from item 11, page 925, of the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held 1st February, 1939, the Clerk submitted a letter dated 24th February, 1939, from the County A.R.P. Officer, stating that the Council's proposal to retain as a reserve the timber under Category "B" was approved, and that with regard to the disposal of timber under Category "C," the action of the Council was approved on the understanding that any sum realised would be set off against the expenditure on Air Raid Precautions Account chargeable to the County Council.

30. Street Cleansing Vehicles for Decontamination Purposes.

Arising from item 12 of the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Committee held 15th February, 1939, the Clerk reported that the County Council had approved an expenditure of £3 in adapting the Council's cesspool exhaustor so that it could be used as a decontamination vehicle.

31. Issue of Training Equipment.

Arising from item 24, page 928, of the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held 1st February, 1939, the Clerk reported that he had carried out the instructions contained in such item, and that six heavy anti-gas suits had now been received from the Uxbridge Urban District Council.

Your Committee RECOMMEND:

That further representations be made to the County Council to the effect that the Council are of the opinion that a further 30 suits now in the possession of the Uxbridge Council should be allocated to them having regard to the ratio of population.

32. Insurance of A.R.P. Volunteers.

Arising from item 44, page 932, of the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held 1st February, 1939, the Clerk reported that the Insurance Company had informed him that the charge for insurance in respect of partial incapacity for members of the Auxiliary Fire Service would be 1s. per capita, and not 2d. per capita as for the volunteers under the general scheme.

Your Committee RECOMMEND:

That the Clerk be instructed to make the necessary arrangements for the insurance of volunteer members of the Auxiliary Fire Service at a premium of 1s. per capita, subject to the approval of the Home Office.

33. Social and Dance, "A" Division.

The Clerk submitted a letter dated 24th February, 1939, addressed to the Chairman from the Hon. Sec., Social Committee, "A" Division, inviting the members of the Committee to their Social and Dance to be held at Grange Park School on Friday, 3rd March, 1939.

34. Bomb-Proof Shelters.

The Clerk submitted the following resolution which had been passed by the Ashington Urban District Council, and which they asked this Council to support:

"That this Council urge His Majesty's Government to take immediate action to provide adequate bomb-proof shelters for the protection of the civil population in danger zones against aerial attack, in the event of the commencement of hostilities and to direct that the cost of providing such shelters should be a national charge."

Your Committee RECOMMEND:

That the Council support the resolution.

35. Civilian Deaths due to War Operations.

The Clerk submitted Ministry of Health Circular No. 1799 dealing with the arrangements to be made in connection with the above.

It was RESOLVED:

That the circular be referred to the Chairman, Clerk and Medical Officer of Health to consider and report to the appropriate Committee, and that the Clerk be instructed to take up with the Ministry of Health the question of whether or not this is intended to be part of the Air Raid Precautions Scheme.

36. Procedure.

At 10.30 p.m. it was RESOLVED:

That Standing Order No. 39 be suspended.

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37. Women's Voluntary Services for Civil Defence.

The Clerk submitted a letter dated 15th February, 1939, from the Assistant Administrator for Middlesex of the Women's Voluntary Services for Civil Defence, asking if the Council considered that the establishment of a Women's Voluntary Services Centre in this area would be of service at this juncture.

Your Committee RECOMMEND :

That the Assistant Administrator be informed that if a branch for West Middlesex is formed the Council will be pleased to co-operate.

(Councillor Pratt re-entered the meeting during the foregoing item.)

38. Staff—A.R.P. Department.

Arising from item 61 of the minutes of the meeting of the Council held 22nd February, 1939, the Clerk submitted a letter dated 26th February, 1939, from Mr. W. T. Jacob, addressed to the Chairman of the Council and asking for an interview arising from the notice received to terminate his services.

It was RESOLVED (6 voting in favour and 4 against) :

That Mr. Jacob be invited to attend before the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee to state his case, and to have a spokesman if he so desires.

(Councillors Ogden and Stringer re-entered the meeting during the foregoing item.)

39. Requisition Book.

The Chairman was authorised to sign the Requisition Book submitted from the A.R.P. Department.

Chairman.

The meeting terminated at 11 p.m.

21. Women's Veterans' Services for Civil War

The Clerk reported a letter dated 10/15/65 from the Assistant Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, dated 10/15/65, regarding the Civil War Veterans' Services for Civil War.

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